

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Post-war Higher School Appointments

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1. At the beginning of 1945, Dr. S. Skrzeszewski (PPR) was appointed the first Minister of Education of the Communist regime in Poland. Subsequently, he became Ambassador to France and is now again the Minister of Education.
2. The Head of the Department of Higher Schools in 1945 was Professor Henryk Raabe. In August of that year, he was appointed Ambassador to the USSR, which office he held until August 1946. He is now the Rector of the Marie Curie-Sklodowska University at Lublin.
3. In order to organize the higher schools, the Ministry of Education called on pre-war rectors of such establishments to carry out the task. These men, however, were no longer recognized as rectors but simply as authorities appointed to do the organizing. Two specific cases in point were:
  - a. Professor Henryk Raabe, appointed to choose professors for universities.
  - b. Professor Wladyslaw Kuczewski, appointed to choose professors for technical higher schools. He is a member of PPR.
4. When the higher schools were organized in 1945/1946, a Council of Higher Schools (Rada Szkol Wyzszych) was formed with Wladzimir Sokorski at its head. He was formerly a village teacher and became a colonel, a member of the Sejm, and Secretary of the Central Committee of Trade Unions and was decorated with the order of Lenin. He had the power to cancel the direct autonomy of higher schools.
5. Elections to the office of rector were carried out on pre-war lines; but, if Sokorski did not like the candidate selected, the appointment was given to another. For instance, in 1947 at Gliwice Polytechnic the rector was elected by twenty votes against two, but Sokorski canceled the election and appointed Professor W. Kuczewski instead.
6. All appointments to professorships, on the recommendation of Sokorski, had to pass through the Council of Higher Schools for submission to the Ministry of Education. The rulings of the Council on appointments were held to be final.

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7. The Council of Higher Schools was composed of higher school delegates proposed by Sokorski and elected by academic senates. The task of the Council is to keep control on the political line in higher education.
8. The above represents the state of affairs existing until 28 October 1947, when the National State Council issued a new decree for reorganization and the Chief Council for Science and Higher Education was formed. Dr. S. Skrzeszewski became the Chairman of the Presidium of the Chief Council, and Wladzimir Sokorski one of the advisers. Thus, these two men still control the universities and keep them subservient to Party policy and orders.

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